

JUSTICE FOR PAUL HOWELL

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STATEMENT OF THE FAMILY OF PAUL HOWELL

We are devastated by the decision reached today by the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board. Our family continues to be victimized by Julius Jones and his lies. Almost twenty years ago, we trusted the jury in this case and over the last 18 years, we have trusted the appellate process. We had hoped against all odds that we would receive a fair hearing today. It became very apparent before the State of Oklahoma even began its argument that the Pardon and Parole Board had no intention of following its own state rules regarding the providing of false information and not relitigating facts available to the jury and reviewed by the appellate process.

This Board enacted new rules two days ago, on Saturday, September 11, 2021, to accommodate death row inmate Julius Jones. The Board's very own attorney admitted that they have no process in place to check the accuracy of an applicant's statements. In a surprise twist, Kelly Doyle announced she would consider Jones's application under a category he had not requested, nor that the State had received any notice of. Today's proceeding was in no way fair.

The Board asked questions which made it abundantly clear that they had either not reviewed the submissions or were intended to allow the defense more time. For instance, the Board had received extensive training on the appellate process. And contrary to what the defense indicated, capital cases are intensely scrutinized and frequently reversed, approximately 1 out of 2 times. The Board also seemed unaware that a 3-day evidentiary hearing had previously been held on the issue of alibi. Or that DOC operating Procedure 060211 caused the co-defendant's release.

The defense ended up being afforded twice the amount of time as the State. The State additionally was afforded no opportunity to rebut the misstatements of the defense.

We sincerely hope that the Governor will review this case and treat us more fairly than the criminal justice reformers on this Board. We encourage everyone to visit www.justiceforpaulhowell.com. We don't have Represent Justice, a California 501(c)(3) on our side, but we do have the truth.

The truth is that 12 jurors found Julius Jones guilty of murdering Paul Howell, and that courts have reviewed that conviction for the last 18 years.